

Stormwater Facility Maintenance Workshop Oct. 25

Did you know your homeowner's association is likely responsible for maintaining stormwater facilities like detention ponds and wetlands?

Homeowner's associations and property owners are invited to the workshop on Sat., October 25, 9-11 a.m. at the Warren Township offices in Gurnee. The workshop is free and co-sponsored by the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The workshop will focus on the maintenance needs for stormwater facilities like detention ponds, vegetated swales, wetlands and buffers. Specifically:

- Why maintenance is important
- Identifying what kind of facilities exist



- How to spot a failing facility
- Putting together a maintenance plan and schedule
- Who is responsible for maintenance and why
- Improving water quality

The workshop is based on SMC's "Guide to Maintaining Stormwater

Best Management Practices."

Attendees will receive a copy of the guide along with other useful information and resources.

"The Watershed Development Ordinance requires these types of facilities and the maintenance of them. Maintenance is important because it ensures these facilities will operate as designed, to prevent flooding in their neighborhood and downstream," said Mike Warner, SMC Chief Engineer.

The workshop is free but registration is requested by calling (847)918-5260, or email dhertel@co.lake.il.us.

To view the Guide, see: www.co.lake.il.us/smc/publications.

Sequoit Watershed Public Meetings to Address Plan, Maps

Local elected officials, residents and business and land owners in the villages of Antioch and Lake Villa, and in the townships of Antioch and Lake Villa are invited to two public meetings sponsored by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) on the draft Sequoit Watershed Management Plan and the separate floodplain mapping project. The public meeting for the draft watershed plan is set for Wednesday, October 22, 2003, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Antioch Township Hall, 1625 N. Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa.

A public open house is scheduled to give people the opportunity to view their individual properties in relation to the new floodplain

study's proposed floodplain boundaries. SMC staff will be available to assist interested people on Monday, November 10, anytime between 5:00-8:30 p.m. at the Antioch Township Hall.

"This is another opportunity for citizens to ask questions about the stakeholder-based plan and the separate floodplain mapping project," said Ward Miller, SMC Director.

The Sequoit plan is currently under public review. The year-long watershed planning process has been open to all watershed stakeholders. The goal of the plan is to provide guidance for local governments and entities regarding wise development, to monitor current flooding, set goals

not to increase flooding through new development, and to protect natural resources. SMC has no zoning or growth management powers.

"Watershed plans do not include any growth restrictions. Our job is advisory, to provide the framework for locals to guide new development and economic growth based on the best available information about the watershed and thus, the drainage system," said Miller.

The Sequoit plan will be adopted once all comments are received, and considered by SMC and the County Board.

SMC has prioritized the county's

Cont'd on p. 3

Maple Park Restoration Project Completed

Severe streambank erosion and the resulting heavy sediment loads into Sylvan Lake were the focus of the just completed Maple Park restoration project in the Indian Creek subwatershed.

SMC received an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency 319 grant for funding the restoration. The project is part of a master plan for water quality, open space and natural resource management at Sylvan Lake.

Project partners included Fremont Township and the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association.



The project scope included streambank stabilization and planting native species. Both efforts will reduce erosion, and consequently reduce sedimentation

and nitrogen and phosphorous loading into the lake. Approximately 1200 linear feet of streambank were restored.

In addition, nonnative species were removed from over one acre of degraded woodland/savanna and floodplain areas.

Interpretive signage was installed along an improved trail to educate the public about nonpoint source pollution and to acknowledge the project partners.

A operation and maintenance plan also was a part of the overall project. The IEPA grant of \$64,000 plus Fremont Township's \$102,000 match completed project funding.

Green Plan's Focus: Open Space, Flood Reduction in NBCR

With the adoption of the North Branch of the Chicago River (NBCR) Watershed Plan for Lake County in 2000, the North Branch Planning Committee (NBPC) recommended a follow-up project creating a detailed Open Space Management Plan for NBCR from its headwaters in east central Lake County south to Dempster Street in Morton Grove (Cook County), an area of 60,649 acres, or roughly 95 square miles.

The NBPC has just completed three draft chapters of the Chicago River Green Infrastructure (Open Space) Plan. Those chapters can be viewed on SMC's website under "Planning Initiatives."

The goal of the Open Space Plan was to identify all remaining open space in the area, inventory biodiversity, identify the most significant parcels for open space preservation, and describe how all parcels might be tied together in an integrated plan providing improved water quality, flood damage reduction, increased public recreation, and protection of natural resources. Now, the draft Open Space Plan is evolving into a first of it's kind.

"We believe this is the first parcel-

level open space plan in the region to look at combining flood damage reduction with open space planning particularly in such a highly urbanized watershed like the NBCR," said Patty Werner, SMC Watershed Planner.

The plan comes at the "eleventh hour" for the mostly developed watershed. The plan estimates that 68% of the river corridors suffer from moderate to high streambank erosion, and approximately 30% of the watershed was originally wetlands; 55% of these have been destroyed.

Eighteen percent of the watershed is currently preserved as recreation/conservation open space. However, the amount of open space remaining in private hands is disappearing. This open space provides the opportunities to mitigate for and correct many of the current problems in the watershed as well as make the watershed more "user-friendly" to the public.

Meetings to review the draft Plan are scheduled for Oct. 29 and Nov. 19. For more information, contact Werner at 918-5269 or pwerner@co.lake.il.us.

FY04 Budget Submitted

SMC has submitted a "status quo" budget of \$2,070,259 to the County Board for approval at its November meeting. SMC's fiscal year runs December 1-November 30.

WMB Annual Meeting in December

Members of the four Watershed Management Boards (WMB) will gather on Wed., December 10, 6:30 p.m. for their annual meeting to determine FY'04 cost-share grant allocations.

Next year's cost-share grants will mark the 12th year SMC and local units of government and other groups have 50/50 cost shared on local drainage and flooding reduction and water quality projects. FY'03 funds of \$131,000 leveraged \$305,000 worth of local projects. FY'04 WMB funding is anticipated to be \$128,000.

WMB membership consists of the chief elected official at the municipal level, township supervisor, drainage district chairman, and county board district representative. Watch SMC's website in January '04 for WMB approved projects.

North Chicago Flood Study Underway

SMC, City of North Chicago, Foss Park District and the East Skokie Drainage District have partnered up to develop a plan to improve drainage in a section of the Skokie River subwatershed. The plan, called the North Chicago Flood Storage Feasibility Study, is a multi-objective study focusing on flood damage reduction, wetland restoration, water quality improvement and other benefits.

The study partners are interested in investigating the feasibility of adding flood storage by constructing two or three lakes/ponds in the subwatershed.

Flooding in the watershed has in the past impacted local and state roads, the park district, Abbott Laboratories, and others. The potential project sites are upstream of or within SMC's identified problem area inventory. The main cause of flooding is from poor drainage. Both sites also are upstream of another problem area on the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. SMC will be working with the project consultant, STS Consultants, Ltd. on the \$25,000 cost-share study.

"The North Chicago Study is one of several efforts by SMC and its partners on the Flood Damage Reduction Committee to identify opportunities for multi-objective flood damage in the North Branch watershed," said Sean Wiedel, Watershed Planner.



The North Chicago Study seeks to identify storage sites.

NPDES II Focus: Detention Retrofit Program in NBCR

In 2002, Friends of the Chicago River (Friends) and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) received a IEPA grant for cost share best management practices (BMP) projects in the North Branch of the Chicago River watershed (NBCR). \$100,000 in IEPA 319 funds are budgeted to retrofit and repair existing detention basins to improve water quality, reduce flood damages, enhance natural resources and educate the public. Approved applicants receive 50% cost share and are required to contribute a minimum of 50% of their total project cost. This funding is available to retrofit detention basins located in the NBCR in both Lake and Cook Counties. Contact Sean Wiedel at SMC (847) 918-7693 for Lake County projects. For Cook County, contact John Quail at Friends (312) 939-0490.

Fish Lake, Squaw Plans Nearly Complete

The Fish Lake Drain and Squaw Creek Watershed management planning committees are nearly ready to submit the plans for public comment.

Draft floodplain maps for both watersheds also are available. SMC recommends local units of government and consultants use the draft floodplain information "as best available information" until the maps are approved by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; however, FEMA's floodplain elevation must be used where they are higher than those in the SMC study.

Watch SMC's website for information on the public comment period and public hearings for each plan. For more information contact Jason Obergfell, 918-5275.

Sequoit Public Meetings *con't from p. 1*

watersheds based on population projections and growth, existing flooding, and on the existence of natural resources like wetlands and floodplains. The Antioch/Lake Villa area population is expected to increase 60% by the year 2020. At the same time, the watershed is blessed with valuable natural resources that are important for the tourism economy and quality of life, said Miller.

A separate project, and product, from the watershed plan is a new floodplain study and new floodplain maps. Sequoit Creek's original floodplain maps were studied and created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1980. The study delineated floodplain boundaries based on land use information at that time.

Sequoit's floodplain maps today say 1997, which is the year the maps were reprinted, not restudied. Local units of government in the Sequoit

watershed have been using maps over 20 years old to plan for and approve new development. A new study and new floodplain maps will reflect land use changes and changes to the natural drainage system since 1980.

As a side note, the Sequoit watershed area, covering roughly 13 square miles, was part of a state declared flood disaster area in 1993 and part of a Presidential flood declaration in 1996.

Based on state-of-the-art methodologies, SMC produces draft maps but then they are forwarded to IDNR and FEMA for technical reviews, and are the focus of another public review comment period and subsequent adoption.

Copies of the Sequoit Watershed Plan are available for viewing at Lake Villa and Antioch public libraries, and at the Lake Villa and Antioch township offices. In addition, you can view the entire plan at SMC's website at: www.co.lake.il.us/smc/sequoit.

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Ward Miller, AICP, Executive Director

Fall 2003 Newsletter - Please notify us of address changes.

For Your Information

SMC Meetings - 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 6, Dec. 4. SMC offices.

TAC Meetings - 9:00 a.m.

Nov. 21, Dec. 19. SMC offices. TAC approved WDO amendments and suggested amendments can be found at: www.co.lake.il.us/smc/meetings/meetings.asp

NPDES Phase II Municipal Advisory Committee - 9:00 a.m.

Nov. 6, SMC offices.

Annual Watershed Management Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 10. SMC offices.

Sequoit Watershed Public Meeting on Draft Plan - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Oct. 22. Antioch Township, Lake Villa.

Sequoit Watershed Floodplain Map Open House - 5:00-8:30 p.m.

Nov. 10. Antioch Township, Lake Villa. For more information on both Sequoit meetings, call Sara Agahi, 918-5272.

Corps Wetland Delineation

Course and Field Training by Richard Chinn Environmental, an approved training course for those pursuing Certified Wetland Specialist certification, is being offered on Oct. 20-23 in Lombard. Registration fee is \$775 and reservations can be made by on-line at: www.richardchinn.com or call toll free 1(800)427-0307.

EPA's NPDES II outreach

materials can be customized with your agency's information for distribution to the general public. To order the free cd of materials and hard copies of the materials, see: <http://cfpub.epa/npdes/stormwatermonth.cfm>.

Watershed Planning Committee Resource Corner

The Resource Corner is a new feature that will focus on materials and information useful to planning committees as watershed plans are being developed and implemented. Here's a way to educate your neighbors.

This Month's Focus is SMC's "Riparian Area Management" brochure. The brochure features easy things homeowners can do around their homes to reduce nonpoint source pollution. If you have a community or homeowner's association newsletter, include tidbits from the brochure.

The Riparian brochure is available at SMC's website: www.co.lake.il.us/smc/publications